Statement

of

Mr. James E. Webb
Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

before the

Committee on Science and Astronautics
House of Representatives

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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,

Dr. Dryden and I, with our associates, are here to continue our testimony in support of H. R. 6029 which we began before your Committee on March 13th. At that time I advised the Committee that President Kennedy had directed a careful review of the program. This review has been completed, has been presented to the President, has been analyzed by him, by the Vice President, by the Director of the Budget, and other officials of the Government concerned with the space program, and the President has submitted a number of important changes in the budget transmitted in January by President Eisenhower. Additional authorizations for appropriations amounting to $125,670,000 have been requested by President Kennedy and incorporated in the bill before you. The President's request increases the previous budget submission by 11.3 percent. It is estimated that if these new authorizations are approved by the Congress and the necessary implementing appropriations also approved, an additional $85,000,000 of expendi-

tures will result in the fiscal year 1962. This expenditure estimate is 8.8 percent more than the expenditure estimate resulting from the budget presented by the previous Administration.

The major effects of the augmentation are to speed up the booster and propulsion components necessary for further development of both manned and unmanned exploration of space. This includes increased launch facilities.

Increased research and development effort related to the supersonic transport is included, as are increased funds to increase the capacity of the agency to administer its large volume of industrial contracts.

In our programs for the practical application of space for peaceful purposes, the research and experimentation in connection with the communications satellite program remain unchanged; however, an increase of $10,000,000 over the previous budget is requested. This increase will provide full Governmental as against partial industry financing pending necessary policy decisions as to the best means for wider industry participation and cooperation and coordination between American industry and the United States Government, as well as to the most desirable relationships with foreign governments and industry. Our program is based on the fullest possible utilization of industry resources, technical competence, ground installations, and organizational know-how. The early experimental stages are now underway. In addition, NASA

is financing a number of important long-range studies. Some of these involve technical aspects, and some analysis of the factors needed to formulate and implement national policy. At the same time, we are working closely with other agencies of the Government to develop information that will form a basis for estimating Governmental requirements. We are expanding our work with the various companies and agencies in the communications industry, both to establish their needs, their views, the courses they desire to pursue, and to find better ways to utilize their knowledge of the needs which this new technological break-through can fill in carrying out NASA's responsibility for the utilization of space science and research for the benefit of all mankind. We are working closely with the Federal Communications Commission in its effort to determine the factors which should underlie sound Governmental policy as to frequency allocation, regulation, and other matters within their area of competence and responsibility.

As many of you know, on March 30, 1961, the Federal Communications Commission took action to initiate an inquiry into the problems of regulating commercial space communications systems, including such problems as provision for equitable access to, and non-discriminatory use of, satellite communications facilities. Included in the scope of the Federal Communications Commission's inquiry are also such matters as operational arrangements and other factors related to the ownership and use of the system.

The State Department is actively considering the problems related to the international negotiation of frequency allocations for space communications purposes, and the Secretary of State has met with me to arrange close cooperation between the Department of State and NASA in exploring the international policy aspects of communications and weather satellites. Other departments of the Government are being drawn into the discussions as appropriate.

We at the Space Agency are pushing vigorously forward with the research and development program in this and other fields. While the above policy development is underway, we will let nothing interfere with the most rapid advancement of the knowledge necessary to develop practical applications at the earliest possible time. The addition to our budget of ten million dollars in this field, as incorporated in the authorizations in H. R. 6029, will provide the funds required. This will postpone the necessity for negotiating arrangements for financial participation by industry until a proper basis of policy can be laid.

As this Committee is well aware, NASA is authorized and directed to (1) formulate specific national objectives and develop a comprehensive program for the study and peaceful utilization of space; (2) conduct research leading to practical solutions of problems of aeronautics and space flight; (3) develop and operate appropriate vehicles for the scientific investigation and practical utilization of

space for peaceful purposes; (4) arrange for the participation by the scientific community in planning and conducting scientific flights of aircraft and space vehicles; and (5) provide for the widest practicable and appropriate dissemination of information concerning these activities and results.

As the Committee also knows, the purpose of NASA's flight program is to place earth satellites and space probes in outer space. These space flights are conducted to meet three primary objectives which are: (1) to produce scientific data on the environment of our solar system and galaxy; (2) to study practical applications of earth satellites to weather, communication, navigation, and similar tasks; and (3) to explore the problems of man in space.

Our budgetary requests for fiscal 1962 total $1,235,300,000. Of this, $196,686,000 is for salaries and expenses, $919,539,000 for research and development, and $119,075,000 for construction of facilities.

You will note that, as in past years, the bulk of the money is requested for research and development, amounting to $919,500,000. Most of these funds are used for the support of that part of the space program conducted by our many industrial contractors, who are in reality partners in this effort. Much of the money goes into the construction of boosters and spacecraft which are the real tools of space explora-

tion. As stated earlier, most of the additional funds requested are to be devoted to strengthening the booster and propulsion programs.

The research and development appropriations also provides for design studies, the fabrication of launch vehicles, spacecraft, and related instrumentation and equipment, the launching of same, and the acquisition of resulting data from the world-wide tracking network. It also provides for the analysis and interpretation of the data, the dissemination of the results to both the scientific community and the public at large, and in some cases, the recovery of the space vehicle. In some cases in fiscal year 1962, passengers are to be recovered with the vehicles.

The requested authorization for salaries and expenses of $196,600,000 represents funds that will be needed to support the 18,122 people within the NASA organization required to carry on this billion-dollar program. These people plan the projects, write the contracts, manage and monitor the various industrial efforts of our contractors, and carry on the supporting research in aeronautics and space as directed by the National Aeronautics and Space Act.

The third major component of our FY 1962 authorization request is $119,075,000 for construction of facilities. This will provide capital funds for equipment useful over a long period. It will provide research tools needed in the program and the facilities which enable the program

to be conducted. Included are facilities and equipment for testing the various booster and spacecraft components on the ground in a simulated space environment. Launch pads, engine test stands, launching, tracking, and data acquisition facilities, at NASA and other Governmental stations and contractors' plants are included.

These authorization requests are made to obtain the financial resources required to implement our plans for the forthcoming year, consistent with the long-range objectives of the national space program. During recent weeks you have heard presentations by members of our technical staff on some of the specific projects included within the program, and other presentations are scheduled for the near future. However, I believe it will be helpful to the Committee to ask Dr. Dryden, Deputy Administrator, to present in more detail the financial aspects of the planned program for 1962 as now modified by the new proposals transmitted by President Kennedy and incorporated in H. R. 6029.

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